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ACCOUNT NO. 23-0975

107508776

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

DT04 Rec'd PCT/PTO 23 SEP 2004

In re application of

Yoshimasa OKABE : Mail Stop: PCT

Serial No. NEW : Attorney Docket No. 2004_1456A

Filed September 23, 2004 :

IMAGE PROCESSING APPARATUS AND
IMAGE PROCESSING METHOD
[Corresponding to PCT/JP03/03688
Filed March 26, 2003]

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of 37 CFR 1.56, 1.97 and 1.98, Applicants request consideration of the references listed on attached form PTO-1449 and any additional information identified below in paragraph 3. A legible copy of each reference listed on the Form PTO-1449 is enclosed, except a copy is not provided for:

- each U.S. Patent and U.S. Patent application publication (*for U.S. National applications filed after June 30, 2003 and International applications that have entered U.S. National Stage after June 30, 2003*),
- each reference previously cited in the international application PCT/_____;
- each reference previously cited in prior parent application Serial No. _____.

1a. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

within three months of the filing date (or of entry into the National Stage) of the above-entitled application, or

before the mailing of a first Office Action on the merits or the mailing of a first Office Action after the filing of an RCE,

and thus no certification and/or fee is required.

1b. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted

after the events of above paragraph 1a and prior to the mailing date of a final Office Action or a Notice of Allowance or an action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and thus:

- (1) the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, **or**
- (2) the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

1c. This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

after the mailing date of a final Office Action or Notice of Allowance or action which otherwise closes prosecution in the application, and prior to payment of the issue fee, and thus:

the certification of paragraph 2 below is provided, and

the fee of \$180.00 specified in 37 CFR 1.17(p) is enclosed.

2. It is hereby certified

- a. that each item of information contained in this Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement, or
- b. that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application and, to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, was known to any individual designated in §1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Statement.

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3. Consideration of the following list of additional information (including any copending or abandoned U.S. application, prior uses and/or sales, etc.) is requested.
4. For each non-English language reference listed on the attached form PTO-1449, reference is made to:
 - a. a full or partial English language translation submitted herewith,
 - b. a foreign patent office search report (in the English language) submitted herewith,
 - c. the concise explanation contained in the specification of the present application at page,
 - d. the concise explanation set forth in the attached English language abstracts,
 - e. the concise explanation set forth below or on a separate sheet attached to the reference:

U.S. Patent No. 5,648,818 corresponds to JP 6-125565; and

U.S. Patent No. 5,113,247, DE 68926637, and EP 0350794 corresponds to JP 2-23790.

5. A foreign patent office search report citing one or more of the references is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,

Yoshimasa OKABE

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September 23, 2004

FORM PTO 1449 (modified)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICELIST OF REFERENCES CITED BY APPLICANT(S)
(Use several sheets if necessary)

Date Submitted to PTO: September 23, 2004

ATTY DOCKET NO.
2004_1456ASERIAL NO.
NEW

10/508776

APPLICANT
Yoshimasa OKABEFILING DATE
September 23, 2004

GROUP

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

*EXAMINER INITIAL		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	AA	5,648,818	7/1997	Fukatsu			
	AB	5,113,247	5/1992	Akiyama et al.			
	AC						
	AD						
	AE						
	AF						
	AG						
	AH						
	AI						

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

		DOCUMENT NUMBER	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS	TRANSLATION YES NO
	AJ	6-125565	5/1994	JP			Abstract
	AK	2-23790	1/1990	JP			Abstract
	AL	0 350 794	1/1990	EP			
	AM	689 26 637	1/1997	DE			
	AN	2001-257886	9/2001	JP			Abstract

OTHER DOCUMENT(S) (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

	AO	
	AP	
	AQ	

EXAMINER

DATE CONSIDERED

*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of form with next communication to applicant.

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